

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Final Office Action mailed October 27, 2010, which has been reviewed and carefully considered. Entry of the present amendment and allowance of the present application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-7, 9-10, 13-18, 20-22 and 24-26 are pending in this application, where claims 2, 8, 11-12, 19 and 23 had been previously canceled without prejudice, and claims 3 and 10 have been currently canceled without prejudice. Claims 1, 9, 13, 14, 16, 17, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25 and 26 are independent.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 3-7, 10, 13-18, 20-22 and 24-26 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication that claims 3-7, 10, 13-18, 20-22 and 24-26 contain patentable subject matter. By means of the present amendment, independent claims 1 and 9 have been amended to include the features of allowable claims 3 and 10 which have been canceled without prejudice. In addition, claims 13, 14, 16, 17, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25 and 26 have been rewritten in independent form without including certain features that are believed to be not necessary for patentability.


Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that independent claims 1, 9, 13, 14, 16, 17, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25 and 26 be allowed. In addition, it is respectfully requested that claims 1,

14 and 17 also be allowed at least based on their dependence from independent claims 4-7, 15 and 18 as well as their individually patentable elements.

In addition, Applicant denies any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicant reserves the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Dicran Halajian, Reg. 39,703
Attorney for Applicant(s)
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THORNE & HALAJIAN, LLP

111 West Main Street
Bay Shore, NY 11706
Tel: (631) 665-5139
Fax: (631) 665-5101

Please direct all inquiries and correspondence to:

Michael E. Belk, Reg. 33,357
Philips Intellectual Property & Standards
P.O. Box 3001
Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510-8001
(914) 333-9643